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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 ROME 000817

SIPDIS

FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

STATE FOR IO AND PRM
USAID FOR DCHA/FFP, DCHA/OFDA AND PPC
GENEVA FOR NKYLOH/USAID

BRUSSELS FOR KFULLER/USAID
USUN FOR LSHESTACK

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID WFP UN](#) [EAID WFP UN](#) [EAID WFP UN](#) [EAID WFP UN](#)
SUBJECT: PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR RELIEF ACTIVITIES
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SUMMARY

1. USAID/PPC'S HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE ADVISOR VISITED ROME JANUARY 20-23, 2002 TO PROMOTE THE USE OF CRUDE MORTALITY RATE (CMR) AND NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE AS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS IN THE U.N. WORLD FOOD PROGRAM'S (WFP) RELIEF ACTIVITIES. THESE MEETINGS RESULTED IN WFP'S AGREEMENT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE USE OF THESE INDICATORS AT PILOT SITES. THERE WAS GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT ONE OF THESE SITES WOULD BE IN AFGHANISTAN, SUBJECT TO CONSULTATIONS WITH WFP FIELD OFFICES WORKING DIRECTLY ON THE AFGHANISTAN PROGRAM. WFP'S WORKING GROUP ON THE RELIEF INDICATORS WILL SELECT THE OTHER PILOT COUNTRIES IN CONSULTATION WITH USAID. THIS CABLE REPORTS ON MAJOR CONCLUSIONS AND OUTCOMES OF PPC'S MEETINGS AT WFP AND THE UN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO). IT ALSO IDENTIFIES ISSUES AND CONCERNS REGARDING THE USE OF THESE INDICATORS THAT WARRANT FURTHER DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

BACKGROUND

2. IN 1999, USAID ADOPTED CRUDE MORTALITY RATE (NUMBER OF DEATHS/10,000 PERSONS/DAY) AND NUTRITIONAL STATUS (WEIGHT FOR HEIGHT) OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE AS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR RELIEF ACTIVITIES. SINCE THIS TIME, USAID/PPC HAS SOUGHT COLLABORATION FROM STATE/PRM TO
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JOINTLY WORK WITH USAID PARTNERS (PVOS/NGOS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER DONORS) TO ADOPT THESE INDICATORS; IDENTIFY PILOT SITES; DEVELOP A METHODOLOGY FOR CONDUCTING SURVEYS; AND INITIATE DATA COLLECTION. IN 2000, STATE/PRM INCLUDED CMR IN ITS BUREAU PERFORMANCE PLAN AS ONE OF ITS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.

3. ANNE RALTE, USAID/PPC, MADE A TDY TO ROME, GENEVA AND BRUSSELS ON JANUARY 20 - 31, 2002 TO ENCOURAGE ADOPTION OF THESE INDICATORS TO MEASURE PERFORMANCE IN RELIEF ACTIVITIES BY THE USG'S HUMANITARIAN U.N. PARTNERS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE EU. DURING THE TDY MS. RALTE ALSO COORDINATED ON OPERATIONAL ISSUES SUCH AS THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING FOR DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND REPORTING ON INDICATORS. (NOTE: MS. RALTE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PAULA LYNCH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR POLICY AND RESOURCES, STATE/PRM, IN BOTH GENEVA AND BRUSSELS.)

4. IN ROME, MS. RALTE FOCUSED HER EFFORTS ON THE ADOPTION OF THESE INDICATORS BY THE U.N. WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP), BUILDING UPON PAST DISCUSSIONS WITH WFP ON THIS ISSUE. (NOTE: MENTION WAS MADE OF THESE INDICATORS AT LAST YEAR'S WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS AND THEY WERE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED AT USG/WFP BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN APRIL 2001. AT THESE MEETINGS, WFP AGREED TO CONDUCT SOME PILOT STUDIES USING THE INDICATORS SUBSEQUENT TO USAID/WFP TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS THAT WERE PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY POSTPONED BY USAID UNTIL JANUARY.) MS. RALTE'S CONSULTATIONS INCLUDED INTRODUCTORY AND CLOSING PLENARY SESSIONS AND MEETINGS WITH INDIVIDUAL STAFF MEMBERS
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COLLABORATING ON THIS EFFORT. WFP DIVISIONS PARTICIPATING IN THESE MEETINGS INCLUDED THE STRATEGY AND POLICY DIVISION (SP), THE OPERATIONS DIVISION (OD), THE OFFICE OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS(OHA), THE VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS AND MAPPING UNIT (VAM), THE OFFICE OF EVALUATION (OEDE) AND THE RESOURCES MOBILIZATION SERVICE - AMERICAS, AUSTRALIA AND ASIA (REA).

OUTCOMES AND CONCLUSIONS

15. THE OUTCOME OF THESE MEETINGS WAS AS FOLLOWS:

-- WFP AND USAID AGREED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH DATA COLLECTION FOR THESE INDICATORS AT PILOT SITES.

-- THERE WAS TENTATIVE AGREEMENT THAT ONE OF THE PILOT SITES WOULD BE IN AFGHANISTAN, SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION AND CONCURRENCE FROM WFP'S CLUSTER OFFICE FOR AFGHANISTAN IN ISLAMABAD. (SEE PARAS 9-11 BELOW FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF AFGHANISTAN).

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ACTION IO-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	COME-00	CTME-00
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	TEDE-00	VCE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	STR-00	TEST-00
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	ECA-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PRM-00	SAS-00

/003W

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P 151635Z FEB 02
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2263
USEU BRUSSELS 2548
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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-- THE POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP PILOTS IN SUDAN AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO WAS ALSO DISCUSSED, BUT NO DECISION WAS REACHED. THE REMAINING SITES WILL BE SELECTED FROM A LIST OF TEN POSSIBLE COUNTRY SITES DEVELOPED BY AN INTERNAL WFP WORKING GROUP. FINAL SELECTION WILL BE BASED ON A NUMBER OF FACTORS INCLUDING GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION, TYPE OF PROGRAM (PRRO OR EMOP) AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS. WFP WILL ALSO SEEK TO INCLUDE COUNTRIES WHERE A VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT MAPPING UNIT (VAM) IS PRESENT TO INCORPORATE FOOD SECURITY AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT DATA.

-- WFP AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN A WORKSHOP ON SURVEY METHODOLOGY, BEING PLANNED BY USAID, STATE/PRM AND THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA). THE WORKSHOP, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE/JULY 2002, WILL BE AIMED AT STANDARDIZING NUTRITIONAL SURVEY METHODOLOGIES, THAT INCORPORATE DATA COLLECTION ON CMR, TO ENSURE RELIABILITY OF DATA.

-- IF WFP FINDS COLLECTION OF DATA ON THESE INDICATORS FEASIBLE, WFP WILL CONSIDER HOW IT CAN INTEGRATE THEM INTO ITS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2003-2007, AS PART OF WFP'S COMMITMENT TO MAKE ITS STRATEGIC PLAN MORE RESULTS-BASED. (NOTE: THIS WOULD MEAN PILOT TESTING WOULD HAVE TO BE COMPLETE BY THE FALL OF 2002.)

-- WFP DID NOT FEEL IT WAS APPROPRIATE TO INCLUDE THESE INDICATORS IN ITS MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU'S) WITH
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ITS NGO IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS UNTIL THEY HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH PILOT TESTING THE INDICATORS.

-- WFP AND FAO REPRESENTATIVES RECOMMENDED THAT NUTRITION AND CMR DATA SHOULD BE INTERPRETED IN A MUCH WIDER CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS.

ISSUES

16. THROUGHOUT THESE CONSULTATIONS, WFP IDENTIFIED COST AS THE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO WFP'S INTEGRATING NUTRITIONAL STATUS/CMR MONITORING INTO ALL ITS RELIEF PROGRAMS. FOR THIS REASON, WFP PLANNED TO TAKE A GRADUAL APPROACH, WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR FURTHER EVALUATION OF COSTS AFTER PILOT TESTING.

17. THE RELATED ISSUE OF TECHNICAL CAPACITY OF WFP AND ITS IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS TO COLLECT THIS INFORMATION WAS ALSO RAISED. WFP CURRENTLY HAS VERY LIMITED FIELD STAFF CAPACITY IN MONITORING AND NUTRITION AND HAS ONLY ONE (1) MONITORING OFFICER AND TWO (2) NUTRITION OFFICERS AT ITS HEADQUARTERS IN ROME. THE HIRING OF ADDITIONAL STAFF AND TRAINING OF EXISTING STAFF ALL HAVE RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS. IN ADDITION, WFP NOTED THAT MANY OF ITS NGO IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS ARE FOCUSED ON FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND LOGISTICS RATHER THAN HEALTH AND NUTRITION. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT GREATER NGO INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH/NUTRITION ACTIVITIES. MS. RALTE EMPHASIZED THAT WFP SHOULD TRY TO MAKE THE MOST OF ITS LINKAGES WITH TECHNICAL

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PARTNERS TO COLLECT NUTRITIONAL/CMR DATA RATHER THAN COLLECTING THESE DATA THEMSELVES. IN ADDITION, SHE SUGGESTED THAT THESE INDICATORS BE INCORPORATED INTO PROJECT MONITORING ON AN INCREMENTAL BASIS, WITH NEW SITES/COUNTRIES ADDED EACH YEAR. PILOT TESTING OF THESE INDICATORS WILL GIVE WFP AND USAID A BETTER IDEA OF TECHNICAL NEEDS AND RELATED COSTS.

18. ANOTHER ISSUE IS THE DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR NUTRITIONAL STATUS MONITORING BETWEEN WFP AND ITS PARTNERS, PARTICULARLY OTHER U.N. AGENCIES, SUCH AS UNICEF. WFP'S CURRENT MOU WITH UNICEF GIVES UNICEF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR NUTRITIONAL SURVEYS IN COUNTRIES WHERE THE TWO AGENCIES ARE WORKING. BROADER ACCEPTANCE AND COLLABORATION ON THESE INDICATORS BY OTHER U.N. AGENCIES AND OTHER DONORS WILL FACILITATE WFP'S DISCUSSIONS WITH ITS PARTNERS. THE DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR NUTRITIONAL MONITORING IS AN ISSUE THAT PARTICULARLY NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED IN AFGHANISTAN (SEE BELOW).

AFGHANISTAN

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INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	COME-00	CTME-00
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	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	ECA-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00
	PRM-00	SAS-00	/004W				

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P 151635Z FEB 02
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2264
USEU BRUSSELS 2549
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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19. MS. RALTE PARTICIPATED IN A SEPARATE SESSION WITH WFP PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN WFP'S AFGHANISTAN PROGRAM. IN JULY/AUGUST 2001, WFP'S VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS AND MAPPING UNIT (VAM) CARRIED OUT A FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT IN AFGHANISTAN THAT ANALYZED THE EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND ON PEOPLE'S ABILITY TO COPE

WITH THE SITUATION. SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, WFP HAS BEEN MAKING EFFORTS TO UPDATE THIS ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVE ITS MONITORING CAPABILITIES IN AFGHANISTAN THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A AFGHANISTAN FOOD SECURITY UNIT (AFSU) IN ISLAMABAD THAT WILL BUILD THE VAM UNIT'S CAPACITY FOR FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS, INFORMATION SHARING AND NETWORKING.

110. CURRENTLY, WFP IS MONITORING BENEFICIARY LEVELS AND VARIOUS TYPES OF FOOD SECURITY INFORMATION AND UPDATES THIS INFORMATION ON A REGULAR BASIS. WFP REVIEWS NUTRITIONAL SURVEYS BEING CARRIED OUT BY VARIOUS NGOS WITH THEIR OWN FUNDING SOURCES. METHODOLOGIES BEING USED ARE NOT STANDARDIZED. WFP IS CURRENTLY EXPLORING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO ESTABLISH A SUSTAINABLE NUTRITION SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM THAT WILL ENSURE THERE IS STANDARDIZATION AND COORDINATION AMONG VARIOUS GROUPS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING SURVEYS. AS PART OF THIS EFFORT, WFP IS WORKING OUT RESPONSIBILITIES WITH OTHER U.N. PARTNERS, PARTICULARLY UNICEF. AS AN INTERIM MEASURE, UNTIL RESPONSIBILITIES COULD BE BETTER DEFINED, WFP PROPOSED TO ENGAGE A NEUTRAL, CREDIBLE INSTITUTION WITH WIDELY RESPECTED EXPERTISE IN NUTRITIONAL SURVEYS, SUCH AS THE U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC), TO COORDINATE SURVEYS WITH UNICEF AND ENSURE THAT

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METHODOLOGIES ARE STANDARDIZED AND DATA ARE RELIABLE. THIS PROPOSAL WAS ENDORSED BY USAID. WFP AGREED TO DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL TO USE CDC WITH ITS CLUSTER OFFICE FOR AFGHANISTAN IN ISLAMABAD. FRANCESCO STRIPOLI, THE DIRECTOR OF WFP'S OFFICE OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, WILL TAKE THE LEAD ON FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET IMMEDIATE PRIORITY NEEDS IN AFGHANISTAN.

MEETING WITH FAO

112. THE U.S. MISSION ORGANIZED A CONSULTATIVE SESSION WITH FAO, CHAIRED BY FAO'S SPECIAL RELIEF OPERATIONS SERVICE (TCOR), WHICH RECEIVES USAID OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA) FUNDING. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO BRIEF FAO ON THESE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR RELIEF PROGRAMS, EXPLAIN WHY THESE WERE SELECTED, AND DISCUSS HOW THEY WERE BEING USED FOR MONITORING PROGRESS. USAID HAS NOT REQUESTED THAT FAO REPORT ON THESE INDICATORS FOR FAO RELIEF PROGRAMS FUNDED BY USAID.

113. THIS MEETING INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FOLLOWING OFFICES AT FAO: NUTRITION PLANNING, ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION SERVICE (ESNA); AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (ESAE); FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS ANALYSIS SERVICE (ESAF); NUTRITION PROGRAM SERVICES (ESNP); AND EVALUATION SERVICE (PBEE). FAO ADVISED THAT IT IS IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING ITS SIX YEAR MEDIUM PLAN AND FOUND THE CONSULTATION TIMELY AND HELPFUL.

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THEY APPLAUDED USAID, AS A MAJOR DONOR, FOR MAKING NUTRITIONAL STATUS ONE OF ITS AGENCY GOAL INDICATORS. THE FAO REPRESENTATIVES GENERALLY SUPPORTED THE INDICATORS AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MORE ACTIVELY SUPPORTING USAID'S RELIEF PROGRAMS BY LINKING CLOSER WITH IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS ON THE GROUND. FAO REPS INDICATED THEY WOULD BE PLEASED TO SHARE DATA THEY COLLECT AS THEY VIEW THESE INDICATORS AS IMPORTANT MANAGEMENT TOOL. THEY ALSO INDICATED THEY WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRAINING WORKSHOP.

COMMENTS

114. THE U.S. MISSION ENDORSES USAID AND STATE/PRM'S JOINT EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN THE OVERALL QUALITY OF DATA FROM EMERGENCY SITES USED FOR POLICY AND PROGRAM DECISIONS. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE MS. RALTE'S EFFORTS TO RE-ENERGIZE DISCUSSIONS WITH WFP ON THESE INDICATORS AND TO MOVE THE DATA COLLECTION EFFORT FORWARD ON A PILOT BASIS, ESPECIALLY IN AFGHANISTAN WHERE THE NEED IS IMMEDIATE. WE DO, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT WFP'S CONCERNS REGARDING COST AND THEIR CAPACITY TO INTEGRATE THE MONITORING OF THESE

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ACTION IO-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	COME-00	CTME-00
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	VCE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	IRM-00	STR-00	TEST-00
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PRM-00	SAS-00	/003W

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P 151635Z FEB 02
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2265
USEU BRUSSELS 2550
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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INDICATORS INTO ALL RELIEF PROGRAMS ARE VERY VALID. WE
SUGGEST THAT USAID AND WFP HOLD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON
THESE CONCERNS (PARTICULARLY COST IMPLICATIONS) AT THE
UPCOMING USG/WFP BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN EARLY APRIL.

15. SINCE MS. RALTE'S VISIT WFP HAS TAKEN STEPS TO
ESTABLISH ITS PILOT SITE IN AFGHANISTAN. LAST WEEK WFP
HEADQUARTER'S CHIEF NUTRITIONIST TRAVELED TO AFGHANISTAN TO
FURTHER INVESTIGATE MODALITIES FOR SETTING UP A NATIONAL
NUTRITION SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, WITH INITIAL ASSISTANCE FROM
CDC. HEILEMAN

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